APPENDIX A.

Report of the Committee appointed to consider the question of standard with reference to qualification for admission of S. S. L. C. students to the University and to inquire into the causes of the large number of failures in the Intermediate Examinations held in March 1930, and to suggest remedial measures.

First meeting. At a meeting held on 18th August 1930, the Committee discussed in a general way the subjects of the terms of reference from the Senate.

As a first step, the percentage of failures in each of the several subjects of the Intermediate Examination of 1930 was scrutinised. Judged by this, the most marked deficiency was found to be in English.

A letter from Principal Rollo, dated the 7th March 1930, was read, in which he pointed out a serious decline in the standard of English in the University in recent years. Members of the Committee corroborated this opinion from their own experience.

It was suggested that a short *questionnaire* should be addressed to the Chairmen of Boards of Examiners to elicit their impressions of the maintenance of the standard in their particular subjects at the Intermediate Examination.

It was suggested also that information should be obtained regarding the amount of exercise work required of students and duly corrected in the several Intermediate colleges.

Second meeting. Information on these points having been obtained, the questions were again considered at a meeting held on the 6th March 1931.

At this meeting it was suggested that a comparative statement of failures—particularly in English—in the Intermediate Examination of the South Indian Universities might be obtained so as to enable the Committee to find out whether the weakness in English was confined to Mysore only or was more general. It was desired further that information might be furnished regarding the number of students and of teachers in the Intermediate classes particularly in respect of English.

Conference of English Teachers. These details having been prepared, the Vice-Chancellor felt that a Conference of Teachers of English might with advantage be convened before the Committee met again. A conference was convened in Mysore on the 18th September 1931. A report of the proceedings of the Conference of Teachers of English is enclosed.

Third meeting. This report and the statistics called for were considered at a meeting of the committee held on the 2nd November 1931, and the committee resolved to report to the Senate as follows :—

Present defects. The Committee are agreed that the low percentage of passes at the Intermediate Examination is an indication of an unsatisfactory state of affairs. This appears to be due to the following causes :—

(*a*) The admission to the Intermediate classes of very a large proportion of students insufficiently prepared for a University course ;

(*b*) The low standard of attainment, especially in English, accepted for admission to the University ;

(*c*) The overcrowding of the Intermediate classes, rendering impossible the individual attention on the part of the teacher to each student which is so specially necessary in a preliminary course like the Intermediate.

(*d*) The unfortunate necessity forced on the University by reason of the large number of students admitted to the Intermediate Colleges and the proportionately small funds available for working those colleges, and of staffing the Colleges largely with low paid teachers, too many of whom are young and without sufficient teaching experience ;

(*e*) A possible overloading of the syllabus in certain subjects of the Intermediate course of studies which has been brought to notice by the Chairmen of the Boards of studies concerned.

Suggestions for improvements. The Committee are of opinion that a very considerable raising of the standard of admission to the University is urgently called for, and that a consequence of such raising of standard would almost certainly be, not merely a raising of the percentage of passes at the Intermediate Examination but an increase in the actual number of students passing, since under present conditions, even the better sort of Intermediate students are at a serious disadvantage through lack of sufficient personal attention from their teachers. By the present system, the colleges while endeavouring to cope with the large number of unsuitable students, fail adequately to benefit even those properly qualified. This represents a waste of effort and resources which should be put a stop to.

The Committee consider that the present system of delegating to an extra-university body the examination of candidates for admission to the University requires modification and are of opinion that the University should have fuller control of the testing of candidates for admission. They recommend as the proper method to secure this end the addition to the present S. S. L. C. Examination of supplementary papers to be set and valued by the University.

The Committee agree with the Conference of Teachers of English that the test should include a paper on General English (including English Grammar and Composition) and they would add another paper on General Knowledge. These two papers should be of three hours' duration each. Only those who satisfy the examiners in the test and in addition obtain the prescribed differential minima at the S. S. L. C. Examination will be eligible for admission to the University.

The Committee further agree that the Intermediate English course may be revised so as to include three papers in English namely, (i) Poetry and Drama; (ii) Prose (iii) General English. It is not intended that this should add materially to the class work of the students.

Conclusion

The fact that at present a 40 per cent pass at each stage of the complete University course (representing a 16 per cent chance of graduating without any failure, which faces the student entering the University), added to the further fact that nearly the whole of the graduating candidates pass in the third class, appears to call for large reforms in the working of the University particularly in the selection and the teaching of students.

The Committee are satisfied that the high failure rate is not to be attributed to an unduly high standard of examination or to unnecessarily severe valuing of answer papers or to deficiency of effort of teachers or to any serious inadequacy in material equipment for teaching the various subjects.

The Committee are strongly of opinion that the present minima should not be reduced in any subject.

The Committee have no doubt at all that the conditions which they have been appointed to investigate are ultimately rooted almost entirely in the following causes;

(*a*) Overcrowding of classes;
(*b*) Admission of insufficiently prepared students to the Junior Intermediate classes;
(*c*) Some overloading of the curricula in certain subjects.

The remedies suggested are as follows :—

(i) The institution of a further test of suitability for admission to the University Courses (conducted by the University) for admission to the University courses; this test to consist of two papers of three hours each on—

(1) English Grammar and Composition
(2) General Knowledge

and to be taken by candidates for the S. S. L. C. Examination desirous of seeking admission to the University.

(ii) A revision of the Intermediate course of studies and scheme of examination so as to lighten the course in subjects in which it is felt to bear heavily and to make the examination in English a more satisfactory tests as suggested in the preceding section.

The Committee further consider it desirable that the University should have its own Matriculation Examination in place of the S. S. L. C. Examination even with the latter supplemented as proposed above.

(Sd.) E. P. METCALFE,
Chairman.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONFERENCE OF TEACHERS OF ENGLISH HELD AT THE UNIVERSITY OFFICE, MYSORE, ON FRIDAY THE 18TH SEPTEMBER 1931, AT 3 P.M.

PRESENT.

Dr. E. P. Metcalfe, D.Sc., F. Inst. P., *Vice-Chancellor and Chairman.*
1. Mr. J. C. Rollo, M.A.
2. ,, A. B. Mackintosh, M.A.
3. ,, F. R. Sell, M.A.
4. ,, B. M. Srikantia, M.A., B.L.
5. Sri. K. D. Rukminiamma, B.A.
6. Mr. M. Seshaiyengar, M.A.
7. ,, S. V. Krishnaswami Iyengar, M.A., B.L.
8. Mrs. H. S. Hensman, M.A.
9. Mr. B. Nagesha Rao, M.A.
10. ,, S. V. Ranganna, M.A.
11. Sri. Kanakalakshamma, M.A.
12. Mr. P. S. Venkataraman, M.A.
13. ,, N. Nagesha Rao, M.A.

Mr. V. Gopalaswami Aiengar, M.A., *Registrar and Secretary.*

The Vice-Chancellor explained that the object of the Conference was to enquire into the standard of English attained by the average student who enters the Junior Intermediate class and the competence of such student to follow the course of instruction in the Intermediate classes and to discuss the improvements, if any, needed in the standard of admission to the Intermediate class and in the methods of teaching to be adopted in the Intermediate class.

A letter from Professor Rollo, Chairman of the Board of Examiners in English, was read. The members were also given copies of the Report of the Special Committee appointed by the S. S. L. C. Board to investigate the causes of heavy failures at the S. S. L. C. Public Examination.

The first step in the discussion was to ascertain the personal experiences and views of the members who were actually in touch with the teaching of English in the Intermediate classes. In the general opinion of the members the average student who comes to the Intermediate class is weak in English Grammar and in writing composition It was generally thought also that the Intermediate course as a whole bears somewhat too heavily on the average student and that students find a certain amount of difficulty in following the instruction given.

Among the improvements suggested, opinion was unanimous that the University should have fuller control over admission to the Intermediate classes from the schools, and particularly that part at least of the examination in English should be in the hands of the University. This would appropriately take the shape of a special paper in General English, comprising Grammar and Composition, this paper to be taken by candidates for admission to the University who had previously satisfied the present requirements in respect of differential minima, etc.

It was agreed that the chief aim of the Intermediate Course in English should be to give the student a command of simple idiomatic English: and that this aim would be attained by frequent exercises in Composition followed by a careful analysis of typical mistakes by the teacher in the class. At the same time students should be encouraged to appreciate the beauties of style and expression of standard writers of works prescribed as texts for study.

The question of reduction of the number of text-books was raised and it was pointed out that according to the reorganised course of studies the number has already been considerably reduced and does not admit of any further reduction. A proposal to give up prescribing non-detailed text-books was not approved. It was pointed out that the time allotted for the teaching of English is insufficient. After some discussion, it was agreed finally that an increase of one hour per week be recommended; that the Composition hour in the Junior class should be devoted to exercises in Grammar and General English, and that in the Senior class to Composition exercises for non-detailed text-books.

It was the definite opinion of the Conference that at the Intermediate Examination there should be three papers in English of three hours each, *viz.*,

(i) Drama and Poetry,
(ii) Prose: Detailed and non-detailed.
(iii) Grammar and General English including paraphrase and epitomisation.

Certain proposals were made regarding the supervision of the teaching of the Junior members of the English staff. No definite decision was arrived at since it was pointed out that the junior members generally drew up the programme of their work in consultation with the senior professors. It was, however, felt that as a rule the senior professor should hold frequent consultations with the other members of the staff so as to co-ordinate their work and to keep in touch with the arrangements for the correction of exercises. Particular attention was drawn by a member to the fact that the scope of teaching in Drama at the Intermediate stage is not defined. It was understood that the suggested consultation between the senior professor and other members of the staff would ensure uniformity of teaching in such matters and that where more institutions than one were concerned a Conference like the present one could, with advantage, be held once each year, with the object among others, of securing the necessary co-ordination.

A proposal to prepare and print a number of composition exercises so as to save the time spent in dictation was also agreed to.

(Sd.) E. P. METCALFE,
Vice-Chancellor and Chairman.